

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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USIAEA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, PARM, IAEA
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONS ON IAEA

REF: STATE 058256

1. FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TRANSMITTED IN
REFTEL:

A. STATES IN WHICH SITE SURVEYS FOR NUCLEAR POWER
PLANTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY IAEA IN RESPONSE TO
REQUESTS BY GOVERNMENT CONCERNED ARE: YUGOSLAVIA,
GREECE, TURKEY, EGYPT, KUWAIT, IRAN, PAKISTAN, THAILAND,
MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, INDONESIA, HONG KONG, TAIWAN, ROK,
NEWZEALAND, MEXICO, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, CHILE, TUNISIA,
AND PHILIPPINES. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING ROMANIA AND
IRELAND HAD ALSO SUBMITTED REQUESTS BUT SITE SURVEYS
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WERE NOT RPT NOT CARRIED OUT. IN CASE OF ROMANIA,
SURVEY WAS POSTPONED INDEFINITELY BECAUSE OF EARTHQUAKE
AND IN CASE OF IRELAND, IT SUBSEQUENTLY MADE ARRANGE-
MENTS WITH OECD/NEA FOR SURVEY.

B. IN THE ABSENCE OF A DEFINITION OF "HELP" OR ANY
INDICATION OF WHAT IS THE CONTEXT, IT IS DIFFICULT TO

ANSWER THIS QUESTION WITH ANY DEGREE OF PRECISION. IF "HELP" INCLUDES SUCH THINGS AS TRAINING COURSES, FELLOW-SHIPS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EXPERTS, INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUPS, DEVELOPMENT OF SAFETY GUIDES AND CODES OF PRACTICE, SAFETY AND SITING MISSIONS, AND A MULTITUDE OF OTHER IAEA ACTIVITIES, VERY FEW, IF ANY, COUNTRIES HAVE CONSTRUCTED NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS "WITHOUT HELP FROM IAEA" IN ITS BROADEST SENSE. EVEN THE MOST ADVANCED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD HAVE BENEFITTED FROM TECHNICAL MEETINGS AND OTHER EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION REGARDING NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ARRANGED THROUGH THE "HELP" OF IAEA. ON THE OTHER HAND WE WOULD FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IAEA "HELP" IN ANY SENSE OF THE WORD WAS IN ITSELF A CRUCIAL FACTOR IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN THE WORLD.

C. THE IAEA STATUTE PROVIDES THAT IT "SHALL SEEK TO ACCELERATE AND ENLARGE THE CONTRIBUTION OF ATOMIC ENERGY TO PEACE, HEALTH AND PROSPERITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD." WHILE THE IAEA THUS HAS NO MANDATE TO ENCOURAGE STATES TO DEVELOP OTHER FORMS OF ENERGY, IT HAS NOT AS A MATTER OF PRACTICE CONFINED ITS ACTIVITIES SOLELY TO NUCLEAR ENERGY. IN ITS "NUCLEAR POWER PLANNING STUDIES" FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES, FOR EXAMPLE, DETAILED CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO OTHER AVAILABLE ENERGY SOURCES, SUCH AS OIL, COAL, UNCLASSIFIED

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HYDRO, AND GEOTHERMAL. THE IAEA ALSO HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED FOR MANY YEARS IN THE FIELD OF MHD ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION. THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS AT TRIESTE, WHICH IS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED BY THE IAEA, HAS PRESENTED COURSES DEALING WITH SOLAR ENERGY. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, HOWEVER, THE IAEA, AT THE SPECIFIC DIRECTION OF ITS BOARD OF GOVERNORS, HAS NOT DEPARTED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM ITS STATUTORY OBJECTIVE AS QUOTED ABOVE. LABOWITZ

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